13 Glossary

AQIM Handbook

Acceptable risk—A judgement (management decision) regarding the permissibility of a hazard; a decision made in the risk management process about the safety of an option or the acceptability of a hazardous event.

Analysis—Determining the nature or proportion of one or more data elements or sets of data.

Approach rate—The total prohibited agricultural items seized or total PPQ cargo actions per the respective, total sampled population.

AQIM—Initials representing Agricultural Quarantine Inspection Monitoring.

Confidence interval—A level of belief that the true value of the population was captured. For AQIM, the numbers of samples taken at each work location were designed to ensure that by detecting the presence of certain pess and quarantine materials during the monitoring, PPQ could be 95 percent sure that it would happen again.

Data—Raw information that provides values for any characteristic of a larger population. For AQIM, these would be all the entries on the data collection form (i.e., flight number, origin, contaminant codes, etc.).

Decision-making—The final choice or commitment to action. Decisions are impacted by the risk analysis process, resource issues and political implications.

Hazard—Elements or events which represent potential harm; an adverse event or adverse outcome. In risk analysis, hazard is specified by describing what might go wrong and how this might happen.

Mean—This term is also referred to as the average. It is computed by adding all the values for a characteristic and dividing by the number of observations. For example, the mean of passengers going through an airport in a day would be the total number of passengers in one year divided by 365 days.

Mitigation—Deliberate action(s) taken to reduce the risk associated with a pest organism or plant disease. Consistent with risk management strategies.

Monitoring—To watch, check, or regulate the performance of a process or activity.

Negligible Risk—A risk value so low (or reasonable) that most parties agree to accept risk at or below this level under most circumstances (also known as tolerable, not significant or de minimis risk).

Pest Risk Assessment—Determination of whether a pest organism is of quarantine significance, and the evaluation of the likelihood and consequences of its introduction, including discussions of the uncertainty associated with the estimates.

Pest Risk Management—The decision-making process concerned with mitigating the risk of introduction or spread of a plant quarantine pest.

Probability—The statistical prediction of the likelihood of possible outcomes.

Proportions—Shows the relative frequency of an event, e.g. percentage of passengers with a QMI.

QMI—Quarantine material intercepted.

Quarantine Security—A management decision concerning the safety at a defined level of pest risk. Additional mitigation is not required when quarantine security is achieved.

Random Sampling—Each member of the population must have a known probability of being sampled (greater than 0).

Risk—The likelihood and magnitude (of the consequence) of occurrence of an adverse event.

Risk Analysis—The process which includes risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication.

Risk Assessment—The process of identifying a hazard and evaluating the risk of a specific hazard in qualitative or quantitative terms. This process should include estimates of uncertainty and should be objective, repeatable, and scientific.

Risk Communication—Open, two-way exchange of information and opinion about risk, leading to a better understanding and better risk management decisions.

Risk Management—The pragmatic process concerned with developing options for mitigating or eliminating the risk.

Risk Management Implementation—Implementing the programs, monitoring, and evaluating program effectiveness; and adjusting and improving program conduct to meet continual needs.

Risk Management Recommendations—Identifying options for intervention; evaluaiton of benefits and down-sides of each option; recommending final option(s) for implementation.

Safety—The degree to which risks are judged acceptable; a subjective measure of the acceptability of risk.

Sample—The part (or a subset) of a population that has been selected for monitoring.

Simple Random Sampling—A selection process where each member of the population must have a known probability (greater than 0) of being sampled.

Strata—Homogeneous and distinctly different groups created for the purpose of dividing cargo.

Unrestricted Risk Estimate—The measure of risk without the application of mitigation.

Variable—Any characteristic on which the elements of a sample differ from each other (i.e., height versus weight, cargo destinations versus type).

WADS—Initials representing the Work Accomplishment Data System.